

A manga-style illustration of two young men. The man on the left has short, wavy blonde hair and is smiling broadly, showing his teeth. The man on the right has short, straight brown hair and is looking slightly to the left with a gentle expression. They are both wearing white collared shirts. In the foreground, there is a large, vibrant bouquet of yellow sunflowers with dark brown centers and green leaves. The title 'Flower of Life' is written in a stylized blue font across the middle of the bouquet. The author's name 'Fumi Yoshinaga' is at the top right, and the publisher's information is at the bottom.

Fumi Yoshinaga

Flower of Life

DMP

DIGITAL MANGA PUBLISHING

Flower of Life 1

Welcome to high school life –
in full bloom.

For some, high school represents the best days of their lives. For others, they would rather bury the memories in the deepest, darkest corner of their minds. For Sanutaro Sanazono, the ball is still up in the air. Forced to enroll one month late after recovering from a serious illness, Sanutaro does his best to remain optimistic about the whole situation. The other students try to make Sanu feel welcome – especially his shabby, lovable pal, Shoto – but Kai Masima, president of the manga club and all-around hard case, seems intent on making Sanutaro's high school life a living nightmare. Join Sanutaro as he makes new friends, learns to draw manga and discovers surprising facts about his 'kinda gay' teacher!

From Fumi Yoshinaga, the award-winning creator of *Antique Bakery*, comes this humorous, touching story of budding youth and teenage angst!

 Kinokuniya

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2010

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READ RIGHT TO LEFT

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Flower of Life

#1	_____	003
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#3	_____	071
#4	_____	103
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GO ON NOW,
INTRODUCE
YOURSELF



I
ME TOO...



BUT BY
ABOUT THE
END OF
THIRD YEAR, I
FINALLY JUST
STOPPED
CARING AND
STARTED
READING,
THOUGH.



WHENEVER
I SAW
SOMEONE
ALONE DURING
RECESS WITH
THEIR NOSE
BURIED IN A
BOOK, I'D
ADMIRE HOW
BRAVE THEY
WERE.

YEAH, WHEN
YOU'RE IN
JUNIOR HIGH,
YOU'RE AT
THAT SELF-
CONSCIOUS
AGE.

I COULD
NEVER JUST
SIT ALONE
AND READ A
BOOK WHEN
I WAS IN
JUNIOR
HIGH, YOU
KNOW?



BETTER
HURRY IT
UP OR
HOMEROOM
WILL BE
OVER, SHY
DUDE!

OUT IT OUT --- GIVE THE
POOR GUY A BREAK!
MOST GUYS WHO DYE
THEIR HAIR BLONDE LIKE
THAT ARE SURPRISINGLY
INTROVERTED, YOU KNOW.



UM ---



HE'S PRETTY
TALL. HE'S EVEN
TALLER THAN
SHIGE STANDING
NEXT TO HIM.



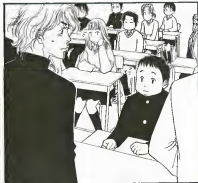
OKAY, MY
BABIES --- TIME
TO INTRODUCE
YOUR NEW
CLASSMATE
AND FRIEND!



THAT'S JUST...
WOW... AND
IT'S NOT EVEN
A BOOK?
IT'S AN ANIME
ILLUSTRATION
COLLECTION OR
SOMETHING...

EVEN SO,
I DON'T
THINK I
COULD EVER
BE LIKE
THAT!

CLATTER









I'M THE
CLASS
CHAIRMAN,
YAMANE.
NICE TO
MEET YOU.

HANAZONO-
KUN.

ドゥン!



OKAY, LET'S
START
CLASS...

ガラ
CLATTER

HEY!
WHICHEVER
ONE OF YOU
WHO HAD THE
PROBLEM LAST
TIME -- WHY
HAVEN'T YOU
WRITTEN IT
UP ON THE
BOARD??



WELL,
IT LOOKS
LIKE
YOU'VE
ALREADY
GOT
PLANS.



OH, BUT
IF YOU'VE
ALREADY
MADE A
FRIEND I
WON'T
INSIST..

IF YOU LIKE,
WOULD YOU
CARE TO
HAVE LUNCH
TOGETHER?

OH...RIGHT.
NICE TO
MEET YOU,
TOO.



BOY.

REALLY?
BOY OR
GIRL?

OH, KOYANAGI
SENSEI. I HAVE
A NEW STUDENT
IN MY CLASS
STARTING
TODAY.

OH...HOW
BORING.



MIKUN!...
SHOTA
MIKUN!
NICE TO
MEET
YOU.

M...



NICE
TO
MEET
YOU!



WELL, THEN...
LET'S WORK
HARD AGAIN
TODAY, SAITO
SENSEI.



SEE YOU
LATER.



HA HA HA!
DON'T WORRY,
I WON'T
TOUCH 'EM...
NOT UNTIL
THEY
GRADUATE.
THAT IS!

WHAT?!
THAT'S
SO LOW!



BAM!!

BUT THERE ARE STILL SOME THINGS YOU CAN'T COMPLETELY WRITE OFF IN THE CONSUMER VERSION, EITHER. THOUGH THE SAKURA SERIZAWA CHARACTER IS THE ONLY ONE WITHOUT A SWIMSUIT EVENT, SHE HAS A CUSTOMIZED EVENT WHERE SHE APPEARS IN A YUKATA AND --



THAT'S ENOUGH OUTTA YOU.



JUST A...

WHEREAS MOST SERIES BEGIN TO SAG AFTER THE 20TH VOLUME, THEY'VE KEPT THINGS FRESH BY INSERTING A SUB-CHARACTER'S BACK-STORY. THE EPISODE ABOUT MARINA'S PAST IS HEART-RENDING.

UM...



MA--

U...UM...
MAJIMA-KUN,
I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH --

THE SCHOOL UNIFORMS IN 3 ARE GOOD, TOO. THE "PORD PORD" TYPE IN RED CHECK AND FRILLS IS NICE, BUT YOU'RE GONNA GO WITH THE CHECK. THE BEST HAS GOT TO BE THE "HAKARA-SAN" TYPE THEY WEAR IN THE JAPANESE RESTAURANTS.

THE OUTFIT IS AN ARRANGEMENT OF A TRADITIONAL TURN-OF-THE-ERA JAPANESE GIRL STUDENT IN A HAKAMA AND LACE-UP BOOTS, AND IT'S SURPRISINGLY GOOD.

I HAVE TO SAY THAT WAITRESS'S UNIFORMS FOR A FAMILY RESTAURANTS ARE MUCH MORE MOCH FOR ME WHEN THEY LEAVE SOMETHING TO THE IMAGINATION.



ALSO, IT BOTHERS ME THAT THE CHIN-LINE OF THE FEMALE CHARACTERS ARE DRAWN WAY TOO SHARP LATELY, KILLING THAT ARTIST'S PARTICULAR "PLUSHY" QUALITY IN THE WORK.

HOWEVER! THE ARBITRARY PAIRING OF TAKKO SEMPAI AND TAKASHI IS UNFORGIVABLE! THAT'S A DEAL-BREAKER.



OH, AND THAT GAME I PLAYED RECENTLY -- "WELCOME TO RESTORANTE PUMPKIN" 3 -- WAS EXCELLENT. THE PC VERSION IS A MUCH BETTER BUY THAN THE CONSUMER VERSION, THOUGH.





GA!!

I DON'T LIKE
PEOPLE LIKE
YOU, WHO YELL
AND TRY TO
MAKE OTHERS
BEND TO THEIR
WILL, EITHER.

I'M
GOING TO
GO EAT
OUTSIDE.

IT'S
ANNOYING.

WHAP



I'M
HOME

WELCOME
BACK!!

DON'T
APOLOGIZE,
MIKUNI!
IT'S NOT
YOUR
FAULT!!

I...
I'M SORRY,
I'M SO
SORRY!

WHAT WAS
THAT?! I'M
SO PISSED
OFF!!

SUCH A
NOISY
DUDE...

IT'S
REFRE-
SHING,
THOUGH

SLAP!



I KNOW I'M THE NEWBIE,
SO IF I'M LEFT OUT OF
THE CONVERSATION AND
FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE,
THAT'S NORMAL! BUT
LOOK AT MIKUNI! HE'S
UNCOMFORTABLE, TOO!!

IF YOU CAN'T
EVEN SHOW
THAT MUCH
CONSIDERATION,
QUIT TALKING
LIKE SOME
HIGH-AND-MIGHTY
EXPERT!! AND
INTRODUCE
YOURSELF
ALREADY!!



HOW LONG
WERE YOU
PLANNING ON
TALKING?!
WHO WERE
YOU EVEN
TALKING TO
IN THE FIRST
PLACE?!

DON'T IGNORE ME
WHEN I'M TRYING
SO HARD TO START
UP A CONVERSATION
WE CAN ALL BE IN!!

H...
HANAZONO-
KUN...



THERE, I'VE
INTRODUCED
MYSELF.
LET GO.

I'M KAI
MAJIMA.





THIS IS THE
WRONG
MAGAZINE!!
THE ONE I
WANTED WAS
"S PRETTY"!!
THIS IS JUST
"PRETTY"!!

WHA ---
HEY!!

HOW
SHOULD
I KNOW
THE DIFFE-
RENCE...

GO BACK
OUT AND
GET ME THE
RIGHT ONE!!



SO
WHERE'S
THE OLD
MAN
TODAY?

OLD
MAIDS
THEY'RE
ALL SUCH
BEASTS

OH! I
THINK HE'S
GONNA BE
LATE AGAIN
TODAY.



OH,
THANKS.

OH
FINE

AND HERE'S
THE MAGAZINE
AND THE MUG
YOU WANTED
FROM THE
CONVENIENCE
STORE



OH, YOU'RE
GOING TO
REBEL AGAINST
ME?! AFTER MY
BONE MARROW
SAVED YOUR
LIFE?

WHAT?!
YOU'VE GOT TO
BE KIDDING!
FORGET IT!!



WHAT? HUH?
YOU DIDN'T
MAKE ANY? I
KNEW IT --- IT'S
BECAUSE YOU
DYED YOUR HAIR
SO BLONDE...
AND AFTER IT
GREW BACK SO
NICELY, TOO!

LOTS OF ---
-? SIS, I'M
NOT SOME
LITTLE KID.

YOURS IS
TOTALLY DYED
BROWN, TOO,
SIS! JUST LIKE
MY GAY
TEACHER'S HAIR!



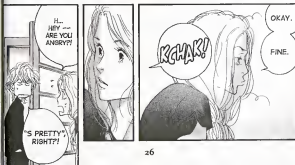
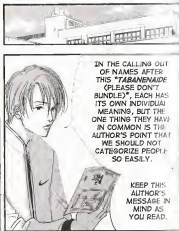
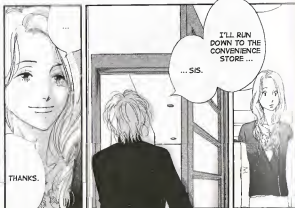
HARUTA!!
HOW WAS
IT?!!
DID YOU
MAKE LOTS
OF NEW
FRIENDS?!



WHAT, YOU OLD
HAG? ARE ALL
WOMEN PAST 25
SO WILLING TO
CHASE AFTER
ANYTHING AS
LONG AS IT'S
MALE?

WHAT, IS
HE YOUNG?
IS HE FUNNY?
IS HE PRETTY?
C'MON,
TELL ME!!

NO WAY!
GAY?!





AS FOR THE REASON WHY THERE ARE NO OTHER MEMBERS, MOST OF THE GIRLS OF THAT INCLINATION ARE ALREADY IN THE ART AND LITERATURE CLUBS, AND THE GUYS ARE -- FOR SOME REASON -- IN THE ASTRONOMY CLUB.

THE ORIGINAL MANGA CLUB SHUT DOWN THREE YEARS AGO, BUT I STARTED ANOTHER ONE MYSELF THIS YEAR. I'M THE CLUB PRESIDENT, MIKUNI'S THE VICE PRESIDENT.

WHY ARE YOU GUYS THE ONLY MEMBERS?!

BUT THIS GROUP... WE MIGHT AS WELL STILL BE IN CLASS!!

I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO BE COUNSELOR FOR ANY OF THE SPORTS CLUBS.



SO WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT CLUB ACTIVITIES, HON?



...SINCE I'M JUST RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS, ANY SPORTS-TYPE CLUBS ARE OUT --

WELL, NO, I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY DRAWN ONE, BUT...

I GUESS IT'S OKAY... I MEAN, I'D ONLY EVER READ "MARGARITA" MAGAZINE IN THE PAST, BUT HERE I AM, COUNSELOR OF THE MANGA CLUB...



IF THERE'S A MANGA CLUB, I'D SORTA LIKE TO JOIN...

OH, UM --

OH? DO YOU DRAW MANGA?



HUH?



OH --- I THINK
HE'S ALL SOPPY
FOR MIKUNI.
BETTER BE
CAREFUL OF
HOMOSEXUAL
ACTIVITIES IN
THE CLUB.

MAJIMA!
I'M NOT
JOINING TO
PLEASE YOU,
ALL RIGHT?!
IT'S FOR
MIKUNI!
I'M DOING
IT FOR
MIKUNI!!

IF THAT
HAPPENS, I'LL
TAKE PHOTOS AND
SELL THEM OUT
ON NI-CHOME.*
DO YOU THINK
THAT WOULD BE
GOOD MONEY?

*SECOND
AVENUE



PANG

CLUB
ACTIVITIES
COMMENCE.



OKAY, THEN -- IN
GOOD AND PLAY
NICE, BOYS.



HANA-
ZONO-
KUN...

OH, YOU'D
BETTER
BELIEVE
I'M LEAV--



IF YOU
DON'T LIKE
IT, LEAVE.



I'D BE
REALLY
HAPPY
IF YOU
JOINED,
THOUGH...

NO, IT'S OKAY.
PLEASE DON'T
FEEL
OBLIGATED.

OH ---





5 MINUTES LATER.





Shoko, Ichikawa, Kurosawa, Hara, Hara, Hara





MM...



サウ
CLATTER

WELL, I'LL
BE HEADING
HOME NOW.

SHIGERU.



THERE'S
NO
SMOKING
ALLOWED
IN THE
FACULTY
OFFICE,
EITHER.

AND THE
CIGAR-
ETTE...



I DON'T KNOW
IF IT'S THIS NEW
"MODERATE
TEACHING"
METHOD OR
WHAT, BUT...



...JUST
BECAUSE
NO ONE'S
LOOKING...

AH, COME ON.
IT'S SO AROUSING
NO MATTER HOW
MANY TIMES I
DO IT -- THE KISS
FROM BELOW.



WHAT'S
WITH YOU?
KINDA
MEAN
LATELY,
AREN'T
YOU?



WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
IN THE END, WE'RE
THE ONES WHO HAVE TO PICK
UP THE SLACK HERE.
LINEAR INEQUALITIES AND
MASTURBATION ARE
THINGS THAT SHOULD BE
LEARNED BEFORE THE
END OF JUNIOR HIGH!

...NOW WE'RE
GOING TO HAVE
TO START
TEACHING
THEM LINEAR
INEQUALITY IN
HIGH SCHOOL?

...SIR, DON'T
MAKE STUPID
JOKES LIKE ON
THOSE RAUNCHY
LATE-NIGHT
PROGRAMS...



MIKUNI,
DON'T SAY
ANY MORE.
IT JUST
GETS
BOTHER-
SOME.

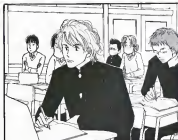
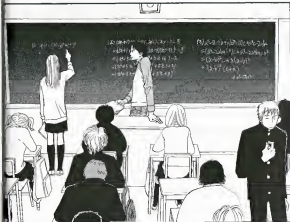
HUH?
WHAT'S
SCREEN
TONE?

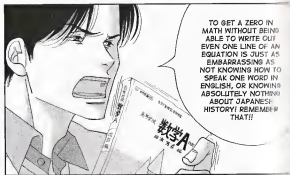
HANAZONO-KUN,
NEXT TIME I'LL
BRING YOU SOME
SCREEN TONE
AND OTHER
THINGS YOU'LL
NEED TO DRAW
MANGA, OKAY?



#2







TO GET A ZERO IN MATH WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO WRITE OUT EVEN ONE LINE OF AN EQUATION IS JUST AS EMBARRASSING AS NOT KNOWING HOW TO SPEAK ONE WORD IN ENGLISH, OR KNOWING ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ABOUT JAPANESE HISTORY! REMEMBER THAT!!



YOU HAVEN'T EVEN WRITTEN ONE LINE... NOT A SINGLE LINE!!

Y'KNOW -- !!

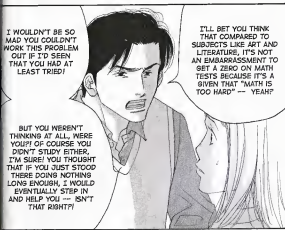


I'M SORRY...



HM.

-- AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND, YOU CAN SO SIT DOWN.



I WOULDN'T BE SO MAD YOU COULDN'T WORK THIS PROBLEM OUT IF I'D SEEN THAT YOU HAD AT LEAST TRIED!

I'LL BET YOU THINK THAT COMPARED TO SUBJECTS LIKE ART AND LITERATURE, IT'S NOT AN EMBARRASSMENT TO GET A ZERO ON MATH TESTS BECAUSE IT'S A GIVEN THAT "MATH IS TOO HARD" -- YEAH?

BUT YOU WEREN'T THINKING AT ALL, WERE YOU?! OF COURSE YOU DIDN'T STUDY EITHER, I'M SURE! YOU THOUGHT THAT IF YOU JUST STOOD THERE DOING NOTHING LONG ENOUGH, I WOULD EVENTUALLY STEP IN AND HELP YOU -- ISN'T THAT RIGHT?!





AT THE TIME I
ONLY HAD SOME
MANGAS WITH ME
I GOT SO BORED..
ALL I COULD DO
WAS READ THOSE
MANGAS, WATCH
TV AND DRAW

ISN'T HE?
HE'S GOOD,
RIGHT?!

HUH?
WHAT'S THIS?
HANAZONO,
ARE YOU
TOTALLY GOOD
AT DRAWING
MANGA OR
SOME-
THING?



SIBLING
LOVE!!
OLDER
BROTHER,
LITTLE
SISTER!!

NO WAY!
DRAW ME
SOME-
THING!

WHAT
KIND OF
THINGS
DO YOU
WANT?

SURE.

HEY, SO
CAN YOU
DRAW, I'D
BE MENTAL
THINK

SEE,
HANAZONO-KUN?
DOESN'T SHIGE
MAKE YOU MAD?
ISONISHI-SAN
IS SO CUTE,
TOO...

W...WHAT'S
THAT ALL
ABOUT...

OH, MY
GOD -- !
TEACHER,
YOU'RE
SOOO
BAAAD!! *SQUEAL!*

HEY, TSUKUY
-- I THINK
HANAZONO
IS MORE
WRY ABOUT
THE INDECENCY
OF THEIR
CONVERSATION

I CAN'T
BELIEVE THIS
IS THE FIRST
TIME YOU'VE
DRAWN
MANGA AT
ALL!

IT'S
GREAT!

SO IS THIS
INKING GOOD
ENOUGH?



ABOUT
THE ONLY
THINGS
YOU CAN
TAKE WITH
YOU ARE
-- 3 BOOKS
AND A FEW
PENS AND
PENCILS.

BUT THE
MEDICATION
CAUSES YOUR
IMMUNE
SUPPRESSION
TO DROP, SO
YOU HAVE TO
ENTER A
STERILE
CHAMBER.

WHEN YOU'RE
DIAGNOSED
WITH LEUKEMIA,
YOU FIRST GET
CHEMOTHERAPY.





I'M NOT
HIDING IT --
MY SON IS
ADORABLE
TO ME.



YOUR DOTTEN
LOVE FOR
YOUR SON IS
COMPLETELY
OBVIOUS
TO YOUR
STUDENT
KOYANAGI
SENSEI!



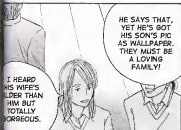
HE'S
ALREADY
IN THE
FIFTH
GRADE.
HAD HIM
WHEN I
WAS 26.

HUHP NO
WAY! HE'S
SUPER CUTE,
ISN'T HE?
I MEAN --
HE'S BIG!!

HE'S SUCH A
LITTLE BRAT --
HE WON'T
LISTEN TO A
WORD I SAY.



SHOW US
WHAT YOUR
SON LOOKS
LIKE,
KOYANAGI
SENSEI!!



HE SAYS THAT,
YET HE'S GOT
HIS SON'S PIC
AS WALLPAPER.
THEY MUST BE
A LOVING
FAMILY!

I HEARD
HIS WIFE'S
OLDER THAN
HIM BUT
TOTALLY
BORGEUS.

WHAT? WHY
WOULD YOU
WANNA LOOK
AT SOMEONE
ELSE'S KID?
HOW BORING!



SHIGERU.



I'M SO STUPID.
AFTER A LINE
LIKE THAT, I
KNOW I HAVE
NO CHANCE!

OH
LAKKSHI!



SEN-
SEI! --!

CLATTER!





OH...
OKAY —
THANK
YOU.

HEY, MIKUNI —
SORRY, BUT
HELP ME OUT
WITH LUNCH
AGAIN TODAY!



MAKE UP
WITH
MAJIMAP

WHAT?



A HUGE
"X" MARK
APPEARS ON
HIS FOREHEAD!

THROB!



...JUST
BECAUSE
NO ONE'S
AROUND!
DUMMY!

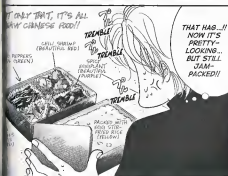


I LOVE
YOU.



SHADDUP!
I KNOW IT
LOOKED
UNAPPETIZING,
BUT WHO
WAS THE ONE
WHO SAID TO
INCREASE THE
VOLUME?!

SIS!! WHAT
WITH THAT LUNCH
TODAY?!



NOT ONLY THAT, IT'S ALL
NEW CHINESE FOOD!!

THAT HAS...!!
NOW IT'S
PRETTY-
LOOKING...
BUT STILL
JAM-
PACKED!!

SPICY SHRIMP
(DELICIOUS RED)
PEPPERS (GREEN)
SPICY BOKCHAI
(DELICIOUS PURPLE)

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

PACKED WITH
SOFT STEAM-
BOILED RICE
(YELLOW)



DING
DONG
DING
DONG

THEY'D HIDE HIS INDOOR SLIPPERS, GRAFFITI HIS DESK... ALTHOUGH IT NEVER REALLY SEEMED TO GET THROUGH TO MAJIMA-KUN.

STILL, MAJIMA-KUN NEVER QUITE FIT IN WITH THE REST OF THE CLASS... IN FACT, HE WAS EVEN THE VICTIM OF SOME BULLYING...



CREEPLY

...BUT GRADUALLY, HE BEGAN TO LEND ME MANGAS AND GAMES AND ANIME DVDS, AND WOULD TALK TO ME AT GREAT LENGTH ABOUT ALL THOSE THINGS...

AT FIRST, MAJIMA KUN JUST WAIKED SILENTLY THE WHOLE WAY HOME.

THE "PROPOSER" CHARACTER IN "THE LAST DAYS OF DISNEY" WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WASN'T A VICTIM OF BULLYING.

IN THAT SCENE, MAJIMA KUN WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WASN'T A VICTIM OF BULLYING.

THE REASON MAJIMA KUN WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WASN'T A VICTIM OF BULLYING WAS BECAUSE HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WASN'T A VICTIM OF BULLYING.



I'M SHY, SO WHEN WE CHANGED CLASSES I WASN'T ABLE TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS EASILY...



MAJIMA KUN WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WASN'T A VICTIM OF BULLYING.

INSTEAD, I WAS THE ONE AFFECTED BY IT

BY THAT TIME, I HAD MADE SOME FRIENDS... AND I SORT OF STOPPED SPEAKING TO MAJIMA-KUN IN CLASS.



I COULD NEVER TELL MAJIMA KUN BUT I BECAME AFRAID THAT IF I CONTINUED WALKING HOME WITH HIM, I WOULD BECOMING THE VICTIM OF BULLYING, TOO, BY ASSOCIATION

THAT'S WHEN I BEGAN WALKING HOME WITH MAJIMA-KUN, WHO HAPPENED TO LIVE IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS ME.

I WAS IN THE SAME CLASS WITH MAJIMA-KUN IN SENIOR YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH, TOO...

BUT...

TH... THAT'S...

HE'S AN INSENSITIVE JERK! AND TO BE HONEST, YOU GUYS DIDN'T SEEM LIKE YOU WERE EXACTLY HITTING IT OFF, EITHER!



NO NO! NOT EVEN IF IT'S A REQUEST FROM YOU, MIKUNI! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO EAT WITH THAT GUY AGAIN!!

N...

MAJIMA-KUN...



WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH MAJIMA SO BADLY ANYWAY?

GIMME A BREAK...





GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO DO WHAT HE SAYS AND MAKE UP.

DAMN... WHY DOES HE HAVE TO BE SO MANLY ON THIS POINT...?



...HE'S ADMIRABLE YOUR FRIEND ...



WHAT ARE YOU -- A LITTLE KID?!

GAHHH!! NOOO!!

DON'T MENTION IT!!



AFTER THAT, I ALWAYS WALKED HOME WITH MY NEW FRIENDS.



AND THEN MAJIMA-KUN... WITHOUT A WORD... JUST BEGAN WALKING HOME BY HIMSELF.



SO WE'RE ASSMATES AGAIN."

THEN IN HIGH SCHOOL, WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS AGAIN... I COULDN'T WORK UP THE NERVE TO SPEAK TO MAJIMA-KUN, BUT... HE WAS UNFAZED, LIKE NOTHING HAD EVER HAPPENED.



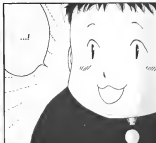
HE ISN'T!



SO YOU SEE, MAJIMA-KUN ISN'T INSENSITIVE!



STOP, MAJIMA...
HANAZONO
LOOKS LIKE
HE'S ABOUT
TO LOSE IT
AGAIN...





BUT YOU
SHOULDN'T DO
SOMETHING
THAT WILL
BREAK UP
SOMEONE'S
FAMILY!! HOW
CAN I CALL
SOMEONE LIKE
THAT A
TEACHER?!

I... I'M NOT
COMPLAINING
ABOUT THE GAY
THING, 'CUZ
EVERYONE HAS
THEIR OWN
PREFERENCES!!

EVEN IF IT WAS BETWEEN
TWO SINGLE MEN -- SPIN
IN THE FACULTY ROOM!!
COME ON!! AND SHIGE!!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO
CHOOSE A MAN WITH A
WIFE AND KID, OF ALL
PEOPLE!!

NO WAY!
I CAN'T
KEEP QUIET
IF YOU'RE
CHEATING!!

ガ
ラ
ッ
ッ
DO
RATTLE!!

HUH?

HANAZONO-
KUN...

HUH? H...

LET IT
GO... IT'S
POINTLESS...

I CAN'T,
I TELL
YOU!!

SENSEI...



SHIGERU MUROI
IS A WOMAN
TOO, ISN'T SHE?!
AND I'M EVEN
SHORTER THAN
AJ TOMINABAI!

B...
BUT YOUR
FIRST NAME
IS SHIGERU...



THAT'S NOT IT,
WHO ARE YOU
CALLING "GAY"?

WHAT IS IT?!
YOU'RE JUST
GONNA TELL ME
MY WAY OF
THINKING IS
NAIVE AND I'M
JUST A KID,
AREN'T YOU?!
WELL, SO WHAT
IF I AM?!

WH...



I'M A
WOMAN.

YOU AND
KOYANAGI
SENSEI, OF
COURSE---

HUH?



NO MATTER HOW
YOU LOOK AT IT,
I CAN ONLY BE A
WOMAN!!

AND ANYWAY ---
MY WOMANLY
SPEECH!!

MY FEMININE
MANNERISMS!!

UH...
ACTUALLY...
NO MATTER
HOW I LOOK
AT IT, SHE
STILL ONLY
SEEMS LIKE
A FLAMING
GAY MAN...



AAA CUP



I'M A
WOMAN.



STRETCH



AND IN MY
CLASS —
MODERN
JAPANESE —
92 POINTS!!

HOME EC. — 27
POINTS; PHYS. ED.
— 91 POINTS;
KANJI READING
AND WRITING —
26 POINTS;
CLASSICAL LIT. —
17 POINTS; MATH
— 3 POINTS!!

ON YOUR
LAST MID-TERMS
IN ENGLISH:
READING — 21 POINTS;
GRAMMAR — 31
POINTS; JAPANESE
HISTORY — 16 POINTS;
BIOLOGY — 15 POINTS;
GEOGRAPHY — 7
POINTS; SOCIAL
STUDIES — 90
POINTS!

BUT OUT OF
THEM ALL, I
GOT THE MOST
POINTS IN
YOUR CLASS.

I'M SORRY
FOR CALLING
YOU OUT TO
A PLACE LIKE
THIS DURING
YOUR LUNCH
HOUR...

MAJIMA,
HON —

...BUT I
DESPERATELY
NEED YOU TO
TELL ME
SOMETHING.♡

WHAT
IS IT?

WHEN IT'S IN
"RYOUJOKU"
I CAN WRITE
THE WHOLE
WORD...

WHY CAN
YOU WRITE
THE HARDER
KANJI "DOKU"
IN THE WORD
"KITSUJOKU"
BUT NOT
THE EASIER
FIRST KANJI
"KITSU"??

THE AVERAGE
SCORE IN MODERN
JAPANESE IS 76
POINTS... THAT'S
10 POINTS HIGHER
THAN THE OTHER
SUBJECTS!! OUT
OF ALL THE
STUDENTS I'VE
EVER TAUGHT,
YOUR GRADES
ARE BY FAR THE
WORST!! I'M SO
ASHAMED!!

HAND
SOWEL

"VIOLATE"

"HUMILIATION"

WHY ARE
YOUR
GRADES
SO BAD?

QUIT
RELAYING
THE REASON
FOR YOUR
STUPIDITY
IN SUCH A
CALM,
LOGICAL
MANNER!!

AND SO, ON TOP OF
HAVING ABANDONED
MY STUDIES IN
JUNIOR HIGH, I'VE
LONG SINCE USED UP
ALL MY SURPLUS
KNOWLEDGE GAINED
IN ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL. THEREFORE
I'VE NO LONGER
GOT A SHRED OF
SCHOLASTIC ABILITY
LEFT IN ME
WHATSOEVER

AND TEACHER
YOU SHOULD
REALLY THINK
ABOUT WAXING
YOUR ARMS.
IT'S SUMMER
ALREADY, YOU
KNOW.

STOP --
I DON'T
WANT
TO HEAR
ANY MORE
VULGAR
WORDS..

I CAN
ALSO WRITE
"KINPAKU!"

I MEAN,
LOOK AT YOU!!
WHY IS IT THAT
SOMEONE LIKE
YOU CAN'T
EVEN STUDY?!

AND IN
JUNIOR HIGH,
THE AMOUNT
OF KNOWLEDGE
GAINED IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL TENDS
TO CARRY OVER
AND ENABLES
YOU TO MIDDLE
THROUGH
SOMEHOW,
WITH A LITTLE
EFFORT.

I'VE ALWAYS
LIKED READING
DIFFICULT BOOKS
EVER SINCE I
WAS YOUNG, SO
I WAS ALWAYS
AT THE TOP OF
MY CLASS IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL.

THERE'S A
REASON
FOR THAT.

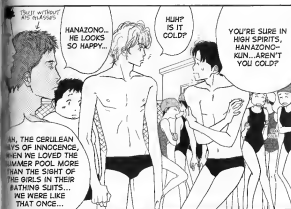
"BONDAGE"

DONG DING DING
DONG

MIND AND
MIND, WHICH
I'VE ALWAYS
LOVED

HOWEVER,
DURING MY YEARS
IN JUNIOR HIGH,
I DISCOVERED
SOMETHING MORE
IMPORTANT THAN
MY STUDIES...!!

YAY --
SWIMMING!!
I HAVEN'T
BEEN IN A
POOL IN
TWO
YEARS!!





PLANK



MY BODY FAT
PERCENTAGE
IS SO LOW
THAT I CAN
MAKE A HOLE
IN A COOP
SWIMMING!

THERE'S A LIMIT TO
HOW MUCH I CAN
MAKE OVER THE NET,
SO I'VE BEEN EARNING
EXTRA MONEY FOR MY
HOBBIES BY DOING
MANUAL LABOR PART-
TIME AT NIGHT.

...AND YET,
YOUR SKIN
IS STILL
SNOWY
WHITE!!

IT'S
SCARY!!

THUS, THE
SHINING
WHITE
SKIN.

DOENKING
PANTS, 303



HANAZONO'S
PANTS ARE
BIG WITH
A-A-A

SHOOH

OH ---
MIKUNI.

LOOK,
TSUJI ---
NOW THERE'S
SOMEONE WHO
IS SWIMMING
ACCORDING TO
CHARACTER.

GO ON AND
SWIM AS
MANY AS
YOU WANT,
HANAZONO.

COACH,
HOW MANY
LAPS AM I
ALLOWED
TO SWIM?

OH MAN,
I'M LUCKY
NOT INTO
SAYS
ALWAYS GET
SO CREEPY
AFTER THE
POOL.

YOU AND
THE SWIM
TEAM ARE
THE ONLY
ONES THAT
ASK THAT,
HANAZONO.

BECAUSE I
CAN'T DO
THE CRAWL
OR THE
BREAST
STROKE.

MAJIMA, THIS
IS COMPLETELY
OUT OF
CHARACTER,
DUDE! WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
THE BUTTERFLY
FOR?!

OMIGOD,
SCARY -- SO
SCARY -- !

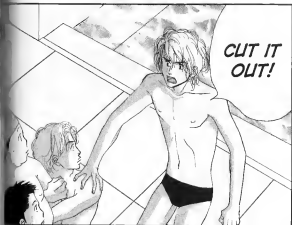
NEVER
MIND THAT
WHAT'S UP
WITH THIS?!

THEY'RE
WAY TOO
RIPPED!!

THOSE
ABS!!

NOT ONLY
THAT ---
YOU'RE THAT
YOKED...

EEEEEEK--



DO YOU KNOW
WHAT MIKUNI
HATES MOST
OF ALL?

WHY
NOT?!



STANDING
OUT

8...BUT
MIKUNI ---
!!

I'M
USED
TO ALL
THIS!

REALLY...

PLEASE
STOP
NOW...

...IT'S...

IT'S ALL
RIGHT...



CAN'T YOU SEE
EVERYONE'S
LOOKING?!

!!
! WHISH!

HE HE...IT'S
GREAT WHEN
SWIM CLASS IS
SIXTH PERIOD
'CUZ WE CAN
JUST GO HOME
AFTERWARD.

OH...
YEAH.

YOU
READY,
SAKAI?



LEAVE HIM
BE... DON'T
BOTHER HIM
ABOUT IT
ANYMORE.

MIKUNI...





AFTER ALL
WE WERE
KEEPING OUR
RELATIONSHIP
SECRET FROM
ANYONE. AND
IF HE'D TRIED
TOO HARD TO
BACK ME UP
THEY WOULD'VE
BECOME
SUSPICIOUS.

YEAH.

IT'S NOT
LIKE I
STILL HOLD
THAT
AGAINST
HIM...



AT THE
TIME, I
WAS GOING
OUT WITH
TAKAHASHI.

"UH...
YEAH..."



BUT IF THE
BOY I WAS
GOING OUT
WITH HAD SAID
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT TO
DEFEND ME...I
THINK MY HEART
WOULD'VE
LEAPT A
LITTLE...





HE'S NEVER
JUST GONE
HOME ALONE
LIKE THAT
BEFORE...



I'LL LISTEN...
SO GO ON AND
TELL ME WHAT
HAPPENED!

...URSH!



YOU MAY NOT
CARE THAT MIKUNI
IS OVERWEIGHT, BUT
MIKUNI IS PROBABLY
VERY SELF-
CONSCIOUS OF IT.



SCHOOL IS THE
PRIMARY PLACE
OF SOCIAL
INTERACTION
FOR YOU KIDS.
AND YOU
EMBARRASSED
MIKUNI IN FRONT
OF EVERYONE.
IT'S NO WONDER
HE HATES YOU!

WELL, THAT'S
COMPLETELY
YOUR FAULT.

...
SEE



QUIT SITTING SO
CONSPICUOUSLY
IN THE CORNER OF
CAMPUS HUGGING
YOUR KNEES SO
PITIFULLY LIKE
THAT!!





EVEN IF THAT
WASN'T YOUR
INTENTION,
THAT'S WHAT
HAPPENED.

BUT THE
INSTANT YOU
INTRODUCED
YOURSELF AS
HAVING HAD
LEUKEMIA,
YOUR HEAVY
PAST INSTANTLY
PUT YOU ON A
SUPERIOR
FOOTING THAN
EVERYONE ELSE



I'M JUST SAYING THAT
IF IT NEVER OCCURRED TO
YOU THAT YOUR REVELATION
MIGHT FORCE OTHERS TO BE
CONSIDERATE TOWARD YOU,
THEN YOU'RE INSENSITIVE,
IMMATURE, AND A FOOL.

I'M NOT
SAYING IT WAS
BAD TO TELL
EVERYONE
HONESTLY
ABOUT YOUR
ILLNESS



...BUT THERE
ARE ALSO
THINGS YOU
CAN ONLY
DO BECAUSE
YOU'RE ALL
THOSE
THINGS,
TOO.

OK! KIDDIES SHOULD
MAKE UP AND BE
FRIENDS! I'VE JUST
BEEN TO HIS HOUSE
RECENTLY TO MEET
WITH HIS PARENTS
FOR THE HOME
REVIEW, SO I CAN
TELL YOU WHERE
MIKUNI LIVES.



ANYONE CAN DO
THAT! BUT THERE
ARE LOTS OF TIMES
IN THIS WORLD
WHEN WHAT'S ALL
RIGHT FOR YOU IS
UNBEARABLE FOR
SOMEONE ELSE.

YOUR SENSE OF
"CONSIDERATION"
IS LIKE A CHILD'S
-- "DON'T DO
ANYTHING TO
OTHERS THAT YOU
WOULDN'T WANT
DONE TO YOU."



AFTER ALL,
YOU'RE "THE KID
WHO OVERCAME
THE TRAGEDY
OF LEUKEMIA"
AND A LITTLE BIT
MORE ADMIRABLE
THAN EVERYONE
ELSE.



YOU'RE RIGHT --
RIGHT NOW
EVERYONE
IS BEING
CONSIDERATE
TOWARDS YOU,
SO THEY MAY
ACTUALLY
LISTEN.

B... BUT
I DON'T
THINK WHAT
I SAID BACK
THERE WAS
WRONG!!



I KNOW, I KNOW --
YOU JUST DIDN'T
WANT TO KEEP ANY
SECRETS FROM
EVERYONE, RIGHT?

WHAT DOES
THAT MEAN?!
I DON'T CONSIDER
MYSELF BETTER
THAN ANYONE
ELSE!



EVEN AT WORK,
GETTING ALONG
WITH PEOPLE IS
THE HARDEST
PART! I KNOW
BECAUSE YOU'VE
GOT MY
PERSONALITY!

DAD
UNDERSTANDS,
SHOTA!!

IT ALWAYS
SEEMS TO
BE FRIEND-
TROUBLES
WITH YOU,
SHOTA...



...



NO,
MOTHER...
THAT'S
JUST METABO-
LISM...

OH, MY. IT MUST BE
BECAUSE YOU'RE SO
WORRIED ABOUT
THOSE THINGS THAT
YOU'RE NOT ABLE
TO GAIN WEIGHT,
FATHER -- EVEN
THOUGH YOU EAT
SO MUCH.



IS IT
THE BILL
COLLECTOR FOR
THE
NEWS
PAPER?



SHOTA, IT'S
DINNERTIME!



TODAY IT'S
YOUR FAVORITE --
SALMON AND EGGS
AND CUCUMBER
SUSHI ROLLS AND
PUMPKIN MISO
SOUP AND SHRIMP-
AND-SPINACH-
AU-GRATIN!!

HERE YOU
ARE,
SHOTA!!



I'M JUST
HAVING
A LITTLE
FRIEND-
TROUBLE...



SHOTA!!
WHAT'S
WRONG?!
DOES YOUR
TUMMY
HURT?!

WHAT
SHOULD WE
DO, MOTHER?!
SHOTA'S
DEPRESSED!!







I HAD THIS FRIEND —
SHE ONLY WORE
STREET CLOTHES TO
SCHOOL, ALL THROUGH
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH
SCHOOL.



I DIDN'T REALLY
UNDERSTAND
WHAT SHE WAS
TALKING ABOUT,
BUT AT THE
TIME, I JUST LET
IT GO AT THAT.

"BECAUSE
IT'S SUCH A
PAIN WHEN
YOU HAVE TO
GO TO THE
BATHROOM
IN A SKIRT."

SHE WAS
ALWAYS IN
JEANS OR
SLACKS, TOO
— SO ONE
DAY I ASKED
HER WHY
THAT WAS



OH, BUT
IT'S SUCH
A PAIN TO
GO TO THE
BATHROOM
IN IT.

THEN ONE DAY,
SHE CAME TO
SCHOOL IN A
SKIRT, SO —

NOW,
THAT'S SO
CUTE ON
YOU!
YOU LOOK
GREAT!



I GUESS
I AM.
I MUST
FINALLY
BE USED
TO YOU.

HE HE...



THEN CAN I
CALL YOU
HARU-KUN
FROM NOW
ON, TOO?

YEAH!

CAN I
CALL YOU
SHOT A?

I'VE BEEN
WANTING TO
CALL YOU BY
YOUR FIRST
NAME...

HEY,
UM...

HEH
HEH...

OF
COURSE
YOU
CAN!

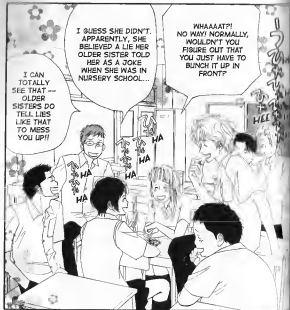
HE HE
HE...



HARUTARO
WAS STILL
CAUSING
PEOPLE TO BE
CONSIDERATE
OF HIM
AFTER ALL.

I HOPE
SO.

HEY, OZAKI —
DO YOU THINK
HANAZONO
WILL BE
SATISFIED
WITH WHAT
WE DID?



I CAN
TOTALLY
SEE THAT --
OLDER
SISTERS DO
TELL LIES
LIKE THAT
TO MESS
YOU UP!!

I GUESS SHE DIDN'T.
APPARENTLY, SHE
BELIEVED A LIE HER
OLDER SISTER TOLD
HER AS A JOKE
WHEN SHE WAS IN
NURSERY SCHOOL....

WHAAAAAT?!
NO WAY! NORMALLY,
WOULDN'T YOU
FIGURE OUT THAT
YOU JUST HAVE TO
BUNCH IT UP IN
FRONT?



SPEAKING OF
LIES, I WAS
TOLD ONE TOO,
WHEN I WAS IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL.

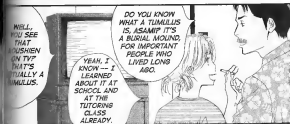


HUP?
BUT DON'T
YOU THINK SO?
BECAUSE WHEN
YOU SIT DOWN
IN THE TOILET..

HEY, I'VE
ALWAYS
WANTED TO
ASK -- WHY DO
YOU THINK IT'S
SO DIFFICULT
TO GO TO THE
BATHROOM IN
A SKIRT?



...YOU'VE
GOT TO SIT
LIKE THIS.







AND IN SAKAI, THERE IS THE TOMB OF EMPEROR INTOKU --- OR PERHAPS I SHOULD CALL IT DAISENRYOU TUMULUS NOW --- WHICH IS THE LARGEST CIRCULAR BURIAL MOUND IN JAPAN. MY CHILDHOOD HOME WAS VERY CLOSE TO IT.



YOU SEE, I'M ORIGINALLY FROM THE KANSAI AREA, AND I GREW UP IN OSAKA IN A PLACE CALLED SAKAI...



THE KOUISHIEN TUMULUS!

AH, WE NEVER EVEN NEEDED A PLAN... AFTER I ENTERED SCHOOL AND LEARNED THAT THE PLACE WAS ACTUALLY A BURIAL MOUND, A CURIOUS FEELING CAME OVER ME, I CAN TELL YOU!



THAT'S WHY EVEN THOUGH OSAKA'S SUMMERS ARE MUCH HARSHER THAN IN TOKYO, WE COULD OPEN THE DOOR TO OUR HOUSE AND A COOL BREEZE WOULD COME BLOWING IN FROM THAT FOREST...

A TUMULUS IS ISOLATED, WHICH MEANS THAT IT IS ESSENTIALLY IN A BIG FOREST.



SO... HOW ABOUT YOU? IS THERE ANYONE HERE WHO HAS ACTUALLY SEEN A TUMULUS FOR THEMSELVES?



YES!!

OH, MAJIMA-KUN! YOU HAVE?



HA HA... IT'S JUST AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THE ORIGINS OF SOMEONE'S INTERESTS CAN BE FOUND UNEXPECTEDLY CLOSE BY.

AH, WELL, WE'VE LONG SINCE FINISHED UP WITH THE TUMULUS PERIOD IN CLASS, SO I'VE RAMBLED A BIT, BUT ---



[illegible]

OHhhh -- BUT MAJIMA-KUN WAS REALLY MAD!!

THAT WAS A GREAT Joke YOU TOLD HIM

NO, NO, AIZAWA-SAN -- THAT WAS A COMEDIC MOMENT TO GO DOWN IN HISTORY!! THANK YOU FOR YOUR PART IN SENDING THE CLASS INTO A 20-MINUTE LONG FRENZY OF LAUGHTER!!

NICE!
NICE ONE,
MAJIMA-KUN!!
I NEVER SAW
THAT ONE
COMING!!

HAHAHAHA

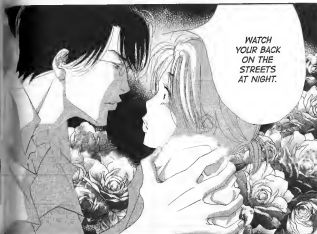
HAHAHAHA

HAHA

IT'S NO GOOD...
MY STOMACH
HURTS JUST FROM
REMEMBERING...

... ..

THEY
WILL
TREMBLE







NO! I REFUSE
TO LET THIS GET
ME DOWN!!
BECAUSE TODAY
WE START
STUDYING MY
FAVORITE WORK...
SANGETSUKU!

OH!!!!



IT'S MY
BIRTHDAY
TODAY



U...UM,
MAJIMA-
KUN...

MEAN
WHY?
AIZAWA
SAN.



WAIT!!

AND
THE
NEXT
DAY.



THE
NEXT
DAY.

MAJIMA
KUN !



LATELY, THERE
SEEMS TO BE A
RUMOR-THAT
AIZAWA-SAN IS
IN LOVE WITH
MAJIMA...

MAJI-
MA-
KUN...



SEE YA!

UGH...
DAMNIT ---
HE GOT
ME! THAT
JERK...!!



HUH?!

I'M SORRY, OKAY?
I'LL MAKE IT UP TO
YOU NEXT TIME,
I PROMISE!
I'M SORRY, SHIGE!

WELL,
THEN!

RELEASE

YOU STILL
THINK I'M JUST
SAYING THAT
OUT OF FORCED
COCKINESS,
DON'T YOU?

FOOLISH
MAN.



AND ANYWAY,
YOU'RE THE
ONE THAT'S
FORGETTING
SOMETHING...

BUT I REALLY HAVE
BECOME USED TO IT. OR
RATHER, I'M NO LONGER
EXCITED AT THE THOUGHT
OF SEEING YOU. JUST LIKE
WITH HUSBAND AND WIFE,
LOVERS CAN WEARY OF
EACH OTHER, TOO.

NOPE, NOT
AT ALL.

CAN IT BE...
THAT YOU
REALLY ARE
IN LOVE WITH
MAJIMA...?

HIH...?
OH, YEAH...I
KNOW WHERE
HE LIVES,
BUT...

I'LL GO
APOLOGIZE
TO HIM
THERE!!

MIKUNI-KUNI!
YOU KNOW
WHERE
MAJIMA-KUN
LIVES, RIGHT?!
PLEASE
TELL ME!

BUT HAVEN'T
YOU HAD TIMES
WHEN YOU
WOULD'VE LIKED
SOMEONE TO
APOLOGIZE EVEN
THOUGH IT WAS
NO BIG DEAL?

YEAH, I
KNOW
IT'S NOT
THAT BIG
A DEAL....

THEN WHY
BOTHER?
BESIDES, IT'S
ALREADY IN
THE PAST..
IT'S NOT
THAT BIG A
DEAL.

...I
DOUBT
HE'LL
SEE YOU
RIGHT
NOW...

EVEN IF
YOU GO
THERE TO
APOLO-
GIZE...

SO WHY
ARE YOU SO
PERSISTENT ON
APOLOGIZING
TO HIM?

NO MATTER HOW YOU
LOOK AT IT, YOU HAVEN'T
DONE ANYTHING WRONG.
IT'S HIS OWN FAULT --
MAJIMA MISUNDERSTOOD
ON HIS OWN,
AND MADE A FOOL OF
HIMSELF ON HIS OWN.

I THINK
YOU'RE
RIGHT...

EVERYONE ELSE
THERE WAS IN THE
SECOND YEAR TOO,
AND I WAS THE
ONLY ONE WHO
WAS VISITING HER
HOUSE FOR THE
VERY FIRST TIME.

WHEN I WAS
IN MY FIRST YEAR
OF JUNIOR HIGH,
I WAS IN THE
LITERATURE CLUB
AND THERE WAS A
TIME I WENT OVER
TO PLAY AT THE
HOUSE OF AN
OLDER SECOND
YEAR STUDENT IN
MY CLUB.

AIZAWA-
SAN.



WE'LL JUST
BE OVER HERE
DISCUSSING THE
DOUJINSHI! THE
THREE OF US WILL
BE PUTTING OUT
SOON, SO TAKE
YOUR TIME.

SURE,
SURE.

HUH?
CAN I
REALLY?



FROM KARASU NO
HAKIN TO ICHIBO FISH,
JORU NO JINZO TO
ADAKENAI HITOMI...
I WAS A VERITABLE
TREASURE TROVE
OF CLASSICS!

HUH?
SHE'S IN
THE LITERARY
CLUB BUT
SHE READS
MANGA?

AND AT HER
HOUSE, SHE
HAD THIS HUGE
COLLECTION
OF MANGA...

THAT'S HOW
IT USUALLY IS,
HANAZONO-
KUN.



IT'S A TALE OF
ENGLISH PIRATES...
AND THE STORY WAS
SO EXCITING, WITH
THE APPEARANCE OF
CHARACTERS LIKE
AN ITALIAN ARTIST
AND A YOUNG
GYPSY BOY...

BEFORE I
KNEW IT, I'D
READ THROUGH
VOLUME 1,
THEN 2...3, 4...
IN NO TIME
AT ALL.

I WAS
COMPLETELY
HOOKED.



THE
MANGA
ITSELF
WAS
REALLY
ENTHUSIASTIC

IT'S
ABOUT THESE
BEAUTIFUL
TRIPLETS
WITH LOVELY
GREEN EYES...
THAT'S WHY
IT'S CALLED
"THE SIX
EMERALDS".



"WOW! I'VE
ALWAYS WANTED
TO READ THIS,
BUT SINCE IT'S
SUCH A CLASSIC
I'VE NEVER BEEN
ABLE TO FIND IT
IN STORES."

THE ONE I WAS
DRAWN TO WAS THE
SERIES CALLED "THE
SIX EMERALDS" -- AN
EPIC BASED ON
EUROPEAN HISTORY.



THE NEXT
ONE, THE NEXT
ONE...!



THEN WHY
DON'T YOU
READ IT
HERE?
IT'S REALLY
GOOD!





BUT NO
ONE DID
THAT



IT'S
MAINLY OF





BUT NO
ONE DID
THAT



IT'S
MAINLY OF





THAT'S IT!!

COME TO THINK OF IT, MAJIMA-KUN'S BIRTHDAY IS COMING UP



HOME
SWEET
HOME

CRASH



OH!



YATSUHAKA-
MURA-
STYLE,
HUH...?

THAT'S
NOT
GOOD

TO BE SURE...
CONSIDERING MAJIMA'S
PERSONALITY, HE MAY
BE THINKING OF
EXACTING REVENGE ON
ALL OF US WHO WERE
AT THAT SCENE...



UHM...
LET'S
SEE...

SO -- IF THERE
ANYTHING WE CAN
DO, MIKUNI?!
YOU'RE THE ONLY
ONE OF US WHO'S
EVER MAINTAINED
ANY NORMAL
CONTACT WITH
MAJIMA!!



OH.



WELL,
THEN...

THE ONLY
COURSE OF
ACTION FOR US
MEMBERS OF
THE "KOSHUEN
TUMULTUS"
INCIDENT CLUB
IS TO MAKE IT
UP TO KA!
MAJIMA!!



YEAH, IT'S DEFINITELY THE THOUGHT OVER THE OBJECT. AND MAYBE IF IT'S SOMETHING UNEXPECTED, THEY MIGHT BE SURPRISED AND HAPPY.

WELL...

IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS, ISN'T IT?



HMMM...

YES! SOMETHING EVEN A DIFFICULT PERSON WOULD LOVE!



OKAY EVERY-ONE!! WE'RE GOING TO MAKE FLOWERS OUT OF TISSUE PAPER!!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, AIZAWA-SAN?! THAT TYPE OF GUY WILL NEVER LISTEN TO OUR APOLOGIES UNTIL HIS WRATH IS ABATED!!

THAT'S IT!! A SURPRISE PARTY!!

THE THOUGHT! UN-EXPECTED

UM... I THINK IT'D BE BETTER TO SIMPLY APOLOGIZE...



OK, WELL LET YOU GET IT OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM

OH!!



LET'S GO OUT TO EAT. YOUR PRESENT'S ON THE DESK.

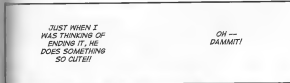
...YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T FORGET.



IT'S A LITTLE LATE, BUT HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

SEN... SEI...

WH...WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SURPRISED ME...



JUST WHEN I WAS THINKING OF ENDING IT, HE DOES SOMETHING SO CUTE!!

OH -- DAMMIT!



A BIRTHDAY PRESENT?



MAMMA-KUN - SORRY ABOUT THE KOUCHEN
TUMULUS THING & HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

真島君 甲子園古墳の件は
ごめんなさい & お誕生日
おめでとう!!



GOOD THING
CALLIGRAPHY IS
YOUR ELECTIVE

HOW'S
THIS?

HEY,
JINNAI-SAN
-- GREAT
CALLIGRAPHY



...GETTING
TO BE KINDA
FUN...

THIS
IS...



SHOTA!!
SHOTA,
C'MERE A
MINUTE!

HEY,
MIKUNI...
ABOUT
TODAY'S
CLUB MEETING...



THIS TYPE OF
PERSONALITY
MAY ADAMANTLY
IGNORE ATTEMPTS
AT APOLOGY... BUT
AT THE SAME TIME,
EXPECTS THE
ATTEMPTS TO
CONTINUE ANYWAY.

"WON'T LISTEN TO
APOLOGIES" --
TSUCHI'S WORDS
DID HAVE LOGIC IN
THEM, BUT...



...IS
SHOWING
A SIGN OF
ATTEMPTING
TO
APOLOGIZE!!



NO
ONE...



HOWEVER...



HMM...
RATHER
THAN BUY
SOMETHING
RANDOM,
WE SHOULD
REALLY
EXPRESS OUR
THOUGHTS...

OOOH, NICE!
WHAT ELSE
SHOULD
WE DO?

OH, I'LL
BAKE THE
BIRTHDAY
CAKE!!
IS BANANA
CHIFFON
OKAY?

SORRY
ABOUT LAST
TIME!!

MAJIMA-
KUN!!

真島君 甲子園古墳の件
ごめんなさい & お誕生日
おめでとう!!

MAJIMA-KUN - SORRY ABOUT THE KOUISHIEN
TUMULUS THING & HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



LIKE I'M
SAYING...

WAFT



HEY, IS
THERE A
PLACE NEAR
HERE WHERE
WE CAN GET
SOME PARTY
POPPERS?

SHHH! JUST
HURRY UP
AND COME
OVER HERE!

BUT...



...BUT I CAN'T
STAND BEING
IGNORED
MYSELF!!

WHAT'S UP
WITH THOSE
GUYS?!

I HAVE NO
PROBLEM
WITH
IGNORING
OTHER
PEOPLE...



AFTER
SCHOOL





#5



...HATE
PEOPLE
SNEAKILY
PLANNING
THINGS
BEHIND MY
BACK!

I...



IN THE END,
THE ENTIRE
GROUP ENDED
UP HAVING TO
LIVE IN FEAR
OF MAJIMA'S
RETALIATION
FOR A WHILE.



BUT YOU GUYS -- I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU! THIS SECOND-SEMESTER SYSTEM IS THE WORST -- BECAUSE THE TERM FINALS ARE WAITING FOR YOU RIGHT WHEN YOU GET BACK FROM VACATION!!

JERK!!

IN AUGUST, I'M GOING TO MY GRANDMA'S IN SENDAI.

STILL... SUMMER VACATION IS SUMMER VACATION. VARIOUS EVENTS AWAIT.

HANAZONO-KUN --

IF YOU GET A BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT, THE CHANCES YOU WILL RECOVER FROM YOUR ILLNESS WILL RISE SIGNIFICANTLY...BUT BECAUSE YOU WILL HAVE TO UNDERGO RADIATION THERAPY BEFORE THE TRANSPLANT --

DO YOU STILL CHOOSE TO GET THE BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT?



YOU WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO HAVE CHILDREN AFTER THAT.



BACK WHEN I WAS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, OUR TERM FINALS WERE OVER WITH BEFORE SUMMER VACATION BEGAN, AND WE WERE ABLE TO ENJOY A CAREFREE, RELAXING SUMMER!



SHISE...I WON'T DEMAND THAT YOU LECTURE THEM ON PROPER CONDUCT, BUT A TEACHER SHOULDN'T JOIN IN ON SUCH CONVERSATIONS...

WHAAAT?! THEN IT'S HASHED RICE! ~ HASHED RICE!!

NO WAY! DO THEY SELL HASHED RICE MIX?

IT MUST BE SO HARD BEING A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT — NOT HAVING ANY MONEY TO GO OUT TO EAT SOMEWHERE NICE ON AN OCCASION LIKE THAT.

LET'S HEAD HOME, HARU-KUN.♡

YEAH, THEY DO!!



HE HE HE...

HEH...

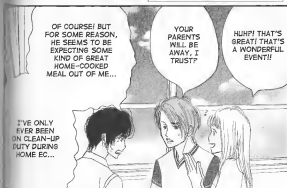
HE HE...



WHAT SHOULD I DO...? MY BOYFRIEND'S COMING OVER TO STAY...

I'LL GET TO SEE THE TANABATA AND EAT LOTS OF BEEF TONGUE. I'LL BE SURE TO BRING BACK SOME HAGINOTSUKU* AS A PRESENT FOR YOU.♡

*A CUSTARD-CREAM-FILLED CASTELLA CAKE



OF COURSE! BUT FOR SOME REASON, HE SEEMS TO BE EXPECTING SOME KIND OF GREAT HOME-COOKED MEAL OUT OF ME...

YOUR PARENTS WILL BE AWAY, I TRUST?

HUH?! THAT'S GREAT! THAT'S A WONDERFUL EVENT!!

I'VE ONLY EVER BEEN ON CLEAN-UP DUTY DURING HOME EC...



BUT THAT'S JUST IT — HE HATES CURRY...

HE, HIS ADVANTAGE ARE SO ALONGSIDE

THEN MAKE CURRY!! JUST HAVE YOUR MOM MAKE YOU A BIG BATCH BEFOREHAND AND FREEZE IT!!

THAT WAS SUCH A BIG CHANCE OF SUCCESS! THEN SCRAMBLING TO LEARN HOW TO COOK BY MYSELF AFTER!!



YEAH!

HUH? OH!
THEN LET
ME GO ASK
MY FAMILY!
TALK TO
YOU LATER!

HUH?!
AT YOUR
HOUSE?
DURING
SUMMER
VACATION?!

OKAY!

REWIND
BACK TO
A BIT
EARLIER,
BEFORE
THE START
OF
SUMMER
VACATION



CAN I GO
TO A SLEEP-
OVER AT MY
FRIEND'S?!

THE END OF
JULY -- WE'RE
NOT GOING
OUT TO THE
COUNTRY THEN
OR ANYTHING,
ARE WE?!

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?!

HEY, SISI!
SISI!

I'M IN THE
MIDDLE OF
PATCHING UP
AN SUITS!



...NOP



EVEN IF IT
DOESN'T INVOLVE
A SIGNIFICANT
OTHER, A
SLEEP-OVER
IS ALWAYS
CONSIDERED
A RATHER
SIGNIFICANT
EVENT.

WE'RE
HAVING A
SLEEP-
OVER,
TOO!!

IF ONLY MIKUNI
WERE 20KG LIGHTER,
I COULD'VE MADE
GOOD MONEY
SELLING PHOTOS OF
HIM TO FEMALE
OTAKU...

わ
ー
!!
!!
YAAAA!!



NO, MY SCHEDULE
IS COMPLETELY FILLED
FROM MORNING TO
NIGHT, ALL UP UNTIL
MIDN. THERE'S A MAJOR
PODGING EVENT I HAVE
TO PREPARE FOR THAT'S
GOING TO EAT UP TONS
OF CASH AROUND
THAT TIME.

JUST DECIDED
TO ASK ON THE
SP-CHANGE THAT
MAJIMA WOULD BE
OFFENDED IF HE
WEREN'T INVITED

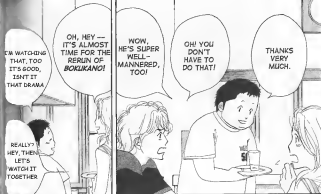
U...UM,
MAJIMA-KUN,
I'M GOING TO A
SLEEP-OVER AT
HANAZONO-KUN'S
PLACE -- IF YOU
LIKE, MAYBE
SOMETIME YOU
COULD COME TO
A SLEEP-OVER
AT MY --

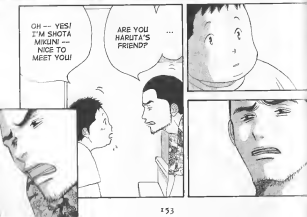


AND THAT'S WHY
EVERYTHING IS HAPPENING









QUET!! THE WEATHER'S BEEN COOLER THIS SUMMER, SO THIS IS FINE! AND DAD — ! WE'VE ONLY GOT A SET AMOUNT OF GYOZA FOR EACH PERSON — QUIT HOGGING SO MANY FOR YOURSELF!!

SAKURAI!! WHY'D YOU HAVE TO MAKE GYOZA HOTPOT IN THIS HEAT?! IN SUMMER, IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE PAN-FRIED GYOZA — PAN-FRIED GYOZA AND A COLD BEER! WHY ARE YOU SUCH AN INCONSIDERATE WOMAN?!

BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE

SHUT UP! WHY DIDN'T YOU MAKE ENOUGH FOR US TO BORSE ON WHEN YOU KNEW WE WERE HAVING A GUEST?!

...

DAD!! S'IS!!

Y...YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! WE ARGUE LIKE THIS JUST TO ADD A LITTLE DAILY SPICE TO OUR LIVES, THAT'S ALL!!

HUH? WHY? I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT WE'RE ACTUALLY A REALLY CLOSE FAMILY, YOU KNOW!

YOUR TALKING BARK IS BARKING (WTF?)

...

WILLSON 50



HE JUST TOLD YOU HIS NAME IS SHOTA MIKUNI!!

UMM...LET'S SEE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL YOU, BUT THANK YOU FOR BEING FRIENDS WITH THIS IDIOT SON OF MINE.♡

AH, YES! I'M HARUTA'S FATHER!!

NOT AT ALL — THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME STAY OVER TONIGHT.



AND
SHE'S
TEACHING
OVER IN
SPAIN.

THAT'S WHY
THERE ARE
QUITE A LOT OF
JOB OPENINGS
OVERSEAS TO
TEACH THIS
SKILL. MY WIFE
IS A CHICKEN
SEXER, TOO



OH -- NO, I'D
LIKE TO HEAR
IT. PLEASE
GO ON!

**DAD,
SHUT UP!!**

HEY! HEY!
HEY! AGAIN!

OH! WANNA
HEAR HOW ME
AND MY OLD
LADY MET? DO
YAP YOU DOWN
THEN I'LL TELL
YOU --



DAMN
...!!

AND HE
RE-ENTER



ONCE A YEAR,
THEY HAVE THIS
COMPETITION CALLED
THE CHICKEN SEXER'S
CHAMPIONSHIP...

AND MY OLD
LADY WAS THE
CHAMPION,
THREE YEARS
RUNNING.



DAD, I'M IN
HIGH SCHOOL
NOW!!

YOU SEE, THE
PROBLEM IS, I
LEAVE SO EARLY FOR
WORK AND COME
HOME LATE FROM
MY SECOND JOB AT
NIGHT, I DON'T HAVE
THE CHANCE TO SEE
HOW MY OWN KIDS
ARE DOING.

BUT HEY, SHOTA-KUN --
IS THIS GUY REALLY
GETTING ALONG WITH
EVERYONE AT SCHOOL?
I WORRY 'CUZ HE'S
Y'KNOW, A YEAR OLDER
THAN EVERYONE ELSE.
A YEAR'S DIFFERENCE
CAN BE HUGE WHEN
YOU'RE IN JUNIOR HIGH!

UM...WHAT
EXACTLY IS
IT THAT YOU
DO, SIR...?



JAPAN LEADS
THE WORLD IN
THIS SKILL OF
CHICKEN-
SEXING...THIS
SKILL IS
WORTHY OF
NATIONAL
PRIDE!

YEAH, I EXAMINE
BABY CHICKS
TO DETERMINE
WHETHER THEY'RE
MALE OR FEMALE --
THAT'S MY JOB.



I'M A
CHICKEN
SEXER.

OH --
ME?



I FELL IN LOVE
WITH HER MANLY
VIRTUE THEN AND
THERE -- AFTER
THAT, I PURSUED
HER LIKE HECK!

SO HARU-
KUN'S LOVE OF
MANLY VIRTUE
COMES FROM
HIS FATHER...

SO
MANLY...

DAD!
DON'T TALK
ABOUT SUCH
EMBARRASSING
THINGS LIKE
THAT IN
FRONT OF
MY FRIEND!

SO WE HAD
NO CHOICE
BUT TO
HAVE THE
KID

AS FOR ME, I DIDN'T
NEED ANY CHILDREN AS
LONG AS I HAD HER, SO
WE USED CONTRACEPTION
BUT Y'KNOW, THOSE
THINGS AREN'T 100%
EFFECTIVE -- AND ONE
DAY, SHE GOT PREGNANT

I WAS
HESITANT
ABOUT BEING
TOO CLOYING
BECAUSE OF
THAT, BUT
THEN -- AND I
THINK YOU
KNOW THIS
ALREADY -- HE
BECAME IL...

THEN WE JUST
DECIDED, "WHAT
THE HECK," AND
HAD A SECOND
ONE...AND IT WAS
JUST AS CUTE,
ONLY THIS TIME
IT TURNED OUT
TO BE A BOY.

WHAT'S
THERE TO BE
EMBARRASSED
ABOUT, MORON?
ANYWAY, ONCE
THE KID WAS
BORN, IT WAS
SO ADORABLE
DOUBLY SO
BECAUSE IT
WAS A GIRL.

THUMP

DON'T BE SO DOWN
ON YOURSELF. 100
CHICKS DETERMINED
100% ACCURATELY IN
5 MINUTES TIME --
A RECORD LIKE THAT
CAN'T BE BEATEN
SO EASILY.

YOU HAD AN
IMPRESSIVE
SCORE, TOO,
HANAZONO-KUN.

I WAS SO
DETERMINED
TO WIN THIS
YEAR...BUT I
LOST AGAIN!!

YOU...

...DID
WELL.

MR.
HANAZONO.

...THE
CHAMP...!!

Y...
YOU'RE...



IN FACT,
IT'S THANKS
TO HIM
THAT I'VE
MADE MORE
FRIENDS,
TOO.

AT SCHOOL,
HARUTARO-KUN
HAS LOTS
MORE FRIENDS
THAN I DO.

SIR...



WHAT'S WRONG?
DO YOU HAVE A
FEVER?! HARUTA!!
HARUTARO!!

**HARUTA!!
HARUTA!!**

NO, FATHER —
THIS IS NO
REGULAR COLD!!
CALL THE
AMBULANCE!!



I SEE...



WHEN YOU
DON'T HAVE
ANY, YOU'RE
FINE WITHOUT
'EM... BUT
ONCE THEY'RE
GONE TO YOU,
YOU FEEL LIKE
YOU CAN NO
LONGER LIVE
WITHOUT 'EM...

KIDS ARE
FUNNY
THINGS...



WE BELIEVE
YOUR SON HAS
ACUTE MYELOID
LEUKEMIA.
PLEASE MAKE
IMMEDIATE
ARRANGEMENTS
FOR HIS STAY
HERE AT THE
HOSPITAL.



I BOUGHT
US SOME
FIRECRACKERS —
SPARKLERS —
TODAY!! LET'S
LIGHT SOME
SPARKLERS!!

HEY, SHOTA...
AFTER WE'VE
EATEN, LET'S
GO TO MY
ROOM, AND —

OH — HEY!
SHOTA-
KUN!!

THEN AFTER
THAT, WE'LL
HAVE SOME
WATERMELON!!



THAT'S WHY
WHEN HIS LIFE
WAS SAVED,
I DECIDED —
FROM NOW ON,
NO MATTER
WHAT ANYONE
SAYS, I'M
GOING TO BE
GOOD TO MY
KIDS...





FROM
LEUKEMIA
THEY
BOTH DIED
EARLY...

HARUTA'S
GRANDMA AND
GRANDPA ---
THAT WOULD
BE MY MOM
AND DAD ---

YOU
SEE

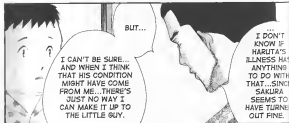


THEY
WERE BOTH
EXPOSED
TO THE
BOMB AT
NAGASAKI



...AND I'VE
BEEN HEALTHY
UP UNTIL THIS
AGE, WITH NO
PARTICULAR
PROBLEMS.

BUT GRAN AND
GRAMPS WERE BOTH
FAIRLY HEALTHY AT
THE TIME, AND THEY
ONLY GOT THE
LEUKEMIA MUCH
LATER IN LIFE.



BUT...

I CAN'T BE SURE...
AND WHEN I THINK
THAT HIS CONDITION
MIGHT HAVE COME
FROM ME...THERE'S
JUST NO WAY I
CAN MAKE IT UP TO
THE LITTLE GUY.

...
I DON'T
KNOW IF
HARUTA'S
ILLNESS HAS
ANYTHING
TO DO WITH
THAT...SINCE
SAKURA
SEEMS TO
HAVE TURNED
OUT FINE.



YOU'D BETTER NOT
PUMP HIM FULL OF
WEIRD STORIES
WHILE I'M IN THE
BATH OR I'LL KI--

GWAH!
WHAT IS IT
WITH THIS
KID?! HE'S
SO CUTE!!

...I
WON'T
STAND
FOR IT.

ISN'T HE?
ISN'T HE,
THOUGH?!



...IF YOU
COULD,
I'D LIKE
YOU TO STAY
FRIENDS
WITH HARUTA...
FOR LIFE.



GETTING
SERIOUS
FOR A
MOMENT...
COULD
WE TALK
PRIVATELY?

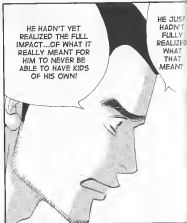
HEY,
SHOTA-
KUN.



HE HADN'T YET
REALIZED THE FULL
IMPACT...OF WHAT IT
REALLY MEANT FOR
HIM TO NEVER BE
ABLE TO HAVE KIDS
OF HIS OWN!

HE JUST
HADN'T
FULLY
REALIZED
WHAT
THAT
MEANT

BEING ABLE TO
HAVE CHILDREN, BUT
CHOOSING NOT TO...
AND NEVER BEING
ABLE TO -- THEY'RE
TWO COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT THINGS...!



I'VE THOUGHT IT
EVER SINCE I
FIRST BECAME
FRIENDS WITH
HARU-KUN...

...THAT I'D
LIKE TO STAY
FRIENDS WITH
HIM...ALWAYS.

SIR -



I
SEE.

...OKAY.



YOU SEE,
HE'S NO
LONGER ABLE
TO HAVE KIDS.

BUT SIR,
ISN'T HARU-
KUN'S ILLNESS
ALREADY
COMPLETELY --

UM...

THEN FINALLY, JUST
WHEN THERE WAS LIGHT
AT THE END OF THE
TUNNEL AS WE FOUND
OUT THAT HIS SISTER'S
MARROW WAS A MATCH
AND A TRANSPLANT COULD
BE MADE -- HE'S TOLD
THAT HE'LL BECOME
STERILE BECAUSE OF THE
TREATMENT AND ASKED IF
HE STILL WANTS TO GO
THROUGH WITH IT.

PUMPED
FULL OF ANTI-
CARCINOGENIC
DRUGS,
VOMITING LIKE
CRAZY, HIS HAIR
FALLING OUT...
ALL THAT FOR A
CHILD OF FIFTEEN
TO ENDURE.

BEFORE THE BONE MARROW
TRANSPLANT,
HE HAD TO
UNDERGO THIS
THING CALLED
RADIATION
THERAPY...AND
IT'S BECAUSE
OF THE EFFECTS
OF THAT
RADIATION.



"THEN
I'VE
GOT NO
CHOICE
BUT TO
GIVE UP
HAVING
KIDS."

"OF COURSE I'LL GET
THE TRANSPLANT.
WITH JUST THE
CHEMOTHERAPY,
I CAN STILL HAVE
CHILDREN BUT
MY CHANCES OF
RECOVERY ARE ONLY
A THIRD -- RIGHT?"

EVEN THEN,
HARUTA WAS
STILL PRETTY
UPBEAT ABOUT
THE WHOLE
THING.



BUT IT WAS
ONLY LATER THAT
WE REALIZED -- IT
WASN'T THAT
HARUTA WAS FINE
AT ALL...ABOUT
NOT BEING ABLE
TO HAVE KIDS...

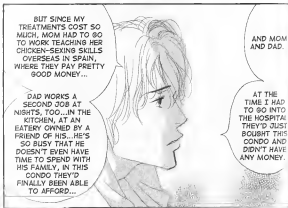
OF COURSE THAT'S
WHAT HIS MOM AND
I THOUGHT, TOO. WE
WERE SO GLAD THAT
HE WAS ABLE TO GET
THE BONE MARROW
TRANSPLANT...



I MEAN,
MY SIS GAVE
ME THE BONE
MARROW FOR MY
TRANSPLANT AND
EVERYTHING...

YOU SEE...
I OWE MY
FAMILY SO
MUCH THAT I
CAN'T STAND
UP TO THEM
RIGHT NOW.

I KNEW IT
WAS GOING
TO TURN OUT
LIKE THIS
SOMEHOW



BUT SINCE MY
TREATMENTS COST SO
MUCH, MOM HAD TO GO
TO WORK TEACHING HER
CHICKEN-SKING SKILLS
OVERSEAS IN SPAIN,
WHERE THEY PAY PRETTY
GOOD MONEY...

AND MOM
AND DAD.

DAD WORKS A
SECOND JOB AT
NIGHTS, TOO...IN THE
KITCHEN, AT AN
EATERY OWNED BY A
FRIEND OF HIS...HE'S
SO BUSY THAT HE
DOESN'T EVEN HAVE
TIME TO SPEND WITH
HIS FAMILY, IN THIS
CONDO THEY'D
FINALLY BEEN ABLE
TO AFFORD...

AT THE
TIME I HAD
TO GO INTO
THE HOSPITAL,
THEY'D JUST
BOUGHT THIS
CONDO AND
DIDN'T HAVE
ANY MONEY.



AND WHEN I
THINK THAT IT'S
ALL BECAUSE OF
ME, I JUST FEEL
BAD ABOUT THE
WHOLE THING...



FOR SOMEONE LIKE HIM
WHO CAN NEVER HAVE
HIS OWN CHILDREN, I'M
SURE HIS FRIENDSHIPS
WILL MEAN MUCH MORE
THAN TO OTHER PEOPLE.

THANK
YOU...



THEY'RE
PUSHY,
AREN'T
THEY...?

MY
FAMILY ---

...SORRY.



WELL, I WAS SO
WORRIED THAT I
COULDN'T TAKE
MY BATH IN
PEACE!

...YOUR
HAIR'S STILL
SOPPING WET,
HARU-KUN.

HEY, DID MY
DAD TELL YOU ANY
EMBARRASSING
STORIES ABOUT ME
WHEN I WAS A KID
OR ANYTHING LIKE
THAT? DID HE?

HUH?!

FULLY ARMED FOR
THE SUMMER
COMIC CONVENTION

FOR HIM,
THE MAJOR EVENT
OF THE SUMMER --
OR RATHER, THE
ONLY EVENT --
IS THE OTAKU'S
CELEBRATED FESTIVAL...
THE SUMMER
DOLJINSKI COMIC
MARKET
CONVENTION.

SUN PRISOR

ICE PATCH

FROZEN WATER BOTTLE
ABOUT TO BE SQUEEZED FROM
UNDER IF IT HAD THAWED
UNTIL ONE HAD ENTERED
THE CONVENTION
BUILDING - LEFT ONE
MIGHT HAVE TO USE THE
BATHROOM!

BACKPACK CONTAINS
VALUABLE
FOODS
SOAKED WITH
BLOOD, SWEAT
AND TEARS
LEFT FOR
THIS EVENT

FOOLISH NOOB! CARRYING
AROUND THAT HEAVY LODSTONE
OF A CATALOG IS THE HEIGHT OF
IDIOCY! YOU PERFORM THE
CIRCLE-CHECK OF THE BOOTHS
YOU WANT TO SEE AHEAD OF
TIME -- THEN ALL YOU HAVE TO
CARRY WITH YOU IS THE BOOTH
LOCATION MAP! THAT'S JUST
NORMAL COMMON SENSE!

AN ABNORMAL
GUY LIKE YOU
WOULDN'T BE
ANYWHERE
NEAR THE
CONVENTION

MAJIN
SUMMER
VACATION

...I'M
SORRY...

YOUR
FAMILY IS
A VERY
NICE ONE,
HARU-KUN.

OKAY.

BUT LET'S AT
LEAST TALK
THROUGH THE
NIGHT! WE CAN
SLEEP IN
TOMORROW!

JUST
LEAVE US
ALONE
ALREADY!!

HEY...YOU
GUYS ASLEEP
YET?

HOWEVER...

HOWEVER,
IN THE FANFIC
DOUGJINSHI,
THE TWO ARE
REPRESENTED
AS LOVERS.

NO, HE
CAN'T —
THE TWO
SEEM ALL

GOTTA
ARRANGE!

THE ORIGINAL WORK
IS JUST A REGULAR
SHOJO (GIRL'S)
NOVEL. THEREFORE,
IN THE ORIGINAL
WORK, THESE TWO
ARE MERELY
ROOMMATES.

WITHOUT THE
COMPLETION
OF THIS STEP,
IT IS NEARLY
IMPOSSIBLE TO
FIND THE BOOKS
ONE IS AFTER,
GIVEN THE HUGE
ARENA SIZE OF
THIS EVENT.

THE "CIRCLE-CHECK"
REFERS TO THE
MARKING DOWN ONTO
THE CONVENTION
SITE MAP OF THE BOOTH
LOCATIONS, USING THE
CATALOGS, OF THE VARIOUS
AUTHORS THAT ONE IS
INTERESTED IN.

A CATALOG IS SO HEAVY IT COULD BE
USED AS A LETHAL WEAPON

I MADE A
MISTAKE! I
PICKED UP THE
WRONG COUPLE
VERSION — THIS
IS ANNABEL X
BARBARA!!

OH
NO!!

NOW
FOR THE
NEXT
BOOK...

THIS FANFIC
CONTAINS LESBIAN
LOVE SCENES,
WITH BARBARA
REPRESENTED AS
BEING THE "MAN"
AND ANNABEL AS
THE "WOMAN" IN
THE RELATIONSHIP.

THE
HUNTER.

AND THE EYES OF
THE PEOPLE FEVERISHLY
SNAPPING UP ALL THE
VARIOUS BOOKS AS THEY
NAVIGATE THROUGH THE
CRUSHING HORDE OF
BODIES CAN BE COMPARED
TO THE EYES OF —

ACTUALLY,
FROM THE
ORIGINAL
NOVEL'S POINT
OF VIEW,
ALL FANFIC
IS A MAJOR
DEVIATION...

AND ANYWAY,
HOW COULD THAT
BARBARA EVER BE
THE "WOMAN" IN
THE RELATIONSHIP,
WITH THAT TWISTED
PERSONALITY
OF HERSELF?

I CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
HOW ANYONE
COULD DRAW
SUCH A
COUPLE!!

FOR THE
LAYMAN, IT JUST
SEEMS THAT THE
NAMES ARE OUT
OF ORDER... BUT
FOR THE OTAKU,
IT IS A MAJOR
DEVIATION.

CURRENTLY, MAJIMA IS
HOOKED ON A NOVEL
ENTITLED "BEAUTIFUL
LIFE IN THE TRAPPIST
CONVENT", A STORY
FEATURING MANY
LOVELY NUNS. BARBARA
AND ANNABEL ARE TWO
OF THE NUNS WHO
APPEAR IN THE STORY.

HMM...THIS EDITION
OF MON-CHAN CO.'S
"BARBARA X ANNABEL"
BY MIKE SENBONSI
IS EXCELLENT!

CIRCLE
NAME

REN
NAME

VERY NOBY!

AT THE COMPLETION
OF THE HUNT,
AFTERWARDS OF
WHICH IT IS SAID
THAT ONE CAN
EASILY HAVE LOST
UP TO 1 KG, THE
QUALITY TIME ONE
SPENDS WITH THE
NETTED SPOILS IS
THE EPIHOME OF
HAPPINESS FOR
AN OTAKU.

